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FLOOR DEBATE

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more time left this morning, I would not have put that motion up, but there's not much we're going to get done, so I think the time ought to be spent with me regaling my colleagues with my trenchant comments in response to the young, gallant member of the Legislature who has undertaken to do what others have desired to do but have chosen not to do. Senator Bourne read a little poem that I wrote one time and he dubbed me "Ernie Dragon" because it was about a dragon. So he is the knight in shining armor who is going to slay the dragon. And I'm not bothered at all by what Senator Bourne did. In fact, this body would be better served, not just in taking out after me, but if when issues of great import are before us, we would discuss those issues on the mike while we are debating. Sometimes the most significant debate goes on away from the mike and those points are never made a part of the record, and the only ones who hear those points are the two or three people who might be in that little group. But since we are behaving as a body of the whole, whenever we're debating issues, I think the discussion that leads to our taking various decisions should be a part of the record. Not everything is going to be on the record because there are discussions we have that lead to agreements, arrangements, compromises, and nobody wants it on the record exactly what he or she said or agreed to specifically, but it will be offered as a compromise reached by, quote, all of the interested parties. And since the purpose of the Legislature is to enact sound, just legislation, it might not matter exactly how we get to that point in terms of giving every little detail. But there should be enough discussion on important issues so that those in the public who have an interest in knowing why the Legislature did something or refused to do something would understand what was one the floor before us that could judge...so they could judge what we did based on what we were discussing. Now, I enjoy having my colleagues take after me because it gives me the opportunity to respond in kind. But as for what Senator Bourne said earlier, he is correct. I have my methodology of obtaining my goals. I tell you all in advance exactly, if I'm aware of exactly what it is I want and where I'm going, what it is that I want, how I propose to get there, and what methodology I will use. I don't see anything inappropriate about that. And if I can prevail on my colleagues through my powers of persuasion, my strength of character, my